

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Favorable reconsideration of the present application is respectfully requested.

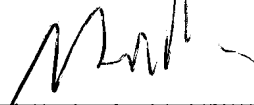
Method Claims 16-19 have been amended responsive to the rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 112. The apparatus Claim 25 has not been amended since the scope of the claim does not depend on the status (e.g., prebent or transferred) of the glass sheets. The rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 112 is therefore believed to be moot.

Claims 16-30 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103 as being obvious over U.S. patent publication 2004/0129028 (Balduin et al). It is noted, however, that at the time of invention the present application and Balduin et al were both subject to an obligation of assignment to the same entity: Saint-Gobain Glass France. Accordingly, Balduin et al is only prior art against the present application under 35 U.S.C. § 103 as of its date of publication: July 8, 2004. See 35 U.S.C. § 103(c). Since the present application was filed in the PCT on March 26, 2004, which is prior to the effective date of Balduin et al, Balduin et al is not prior art under 35 U.S.C. § 103 and so this rejection should be withdrawn.

Applicants therefore believe that the present application is in a condition for allowance and respectfully solicit an early notice of allowability.

Respectfully submitted,

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